

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A flavor deterioration inhibitor or an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar organic solvent or a mixture thereof; ~~(provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves).~~

2. (Currently Amended) A flavor deterioration inhibitor, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; ~~(provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves).~~

3. (Currently Amended) An oral composition wherein a flavor deterioration inhibitor ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ is added in an amount between about at-1-500 ppm, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting flavor deterioration of an oral composition, which comprises adding a flavor deterioration inhibitor ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ to said oral composition in amount between about at 1-500 ppm, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

5. (Currently Amended) A flavor wherein a flavor deterioration inhibitor as ~~claimed in claim 2~~ is added in an amount between about at 0.005-5 % by weight, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting deterioration of a flavor, which comprises adding a flavor deterioration inhibitor ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ to said flavor in an amount between about at 0.005-5 % by weight, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

7. (Original) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.

8. (Original) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7 wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

9. (Currently Amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7-~~or 8~~₁ wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series flavor or citrus-series fragrance.

10. (Currently Amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7-~~or 8~~₁ wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series drink or citrus-series confectionery.

11. (Currently Amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7-~~or 8~~₁ wherein said citral-containing product is fragrances and cosmetics.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell as ~~claimed in any of claims 7 to 11~~ is

added in an amount between about at 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A citral or citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell ~~as claimed in any of claims 7 to 11~~ is added in an amount between about at 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.